

REMARKS

In response to the Communication of October 20, 2004, applicants submit the enclosed substitute specification, excluding claims. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3), applicants respectfully request that the enclosed substitute specification replace the originally-filed specification. Applicants submit that the substitute specification is being filed to 1) reflect changes in numbering of the drawings for the Replacement Figures submitted herewith and 2) to reflect the revised Sequence Identification Nos. presented in the revised Sequence Listing submitted herewith in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821-1.825. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.125(c), attached hereto are a clean version of the substitute specification and a marked-up version showing all changes relative to the immediate prior version of the specification of record. Applicants submit that the substitute specification contains no new matter.

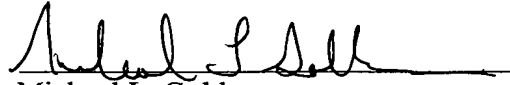
The list of claims as submitted herein above reflects the Examiner's amendment, with the exception of the above amendment to claim 8. Applicants submit that the amendment to claim 8 is required to correct an inadvertent omission of the prefix "pre" in the recitation of "pre-secondary oligonucleotide primers" in lines 19 and 21 of claim 8. Claim 8 is drawn to "providing a pre-secondary oligonucleotide primer set." Therefore, the primers recited in claim 8 are "pre-secondary primers," not "secondary primers." Applicants submit that no new matter is added in this amendment, and respectfully request that the amendment be entered.

Replacement Figures (19 pages) are submitted herewith as an appendix to this paper. The replacement figures are provided to 1) change the three pages of drawings named "Figure 1" to Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C, respectively, and 2) to replace the informal drawings submitted previously in the patent application with higher quality formal drawings. Applicants submit that no new matter is added in the replacement figures, and respectfully request that the replacement figures be approved and entered.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

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January 21, 2005
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